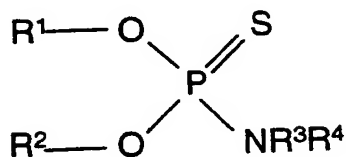


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.(Currently Amended)~~The use of a composition~~ A method for ~~[[the]]~~ flotation of sulfide ores, said method comprising contacting said sulfide ores with at least one compound of the formula



where

R¹, R² and R³ independently of one another are alkyl groups having 1 to 18 carbon atoms, alkenyl groups having 2 to 18 carbon atoms, aryl groups having 6 to 10 carbon atoms, or alkylaryl groups having 7 to 10 carbon atoms, and

R⁴ is hydrogen or alkyl groups having 1 to 18 carbon atoms, alkenyl groups having 2 to 18 carbon atoms, aryl groups having 6 to 10 carbon atoms, or alkylaryl groups having 7 to 10 carbon atoms.

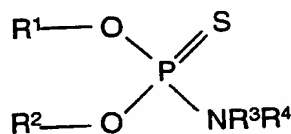
2.(Currently Amended) The method of ~~use of the flotation composition as~~ ~~elaimed in claim 1~~, wherein R¹, R² and R³ independently of one another are C₂-C₄-alkyl groups.

3.(Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said contacting occurs
~~use of the flotation composition as claimed in claim 1 and/or 2~~ in a pH range from 2
to 12.

4.(Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the compound is present
~~use of the flotation composition as claimed in claim 1 and/or 2~~ in amounts of 0.001
to 1.0 kg per tonne of said ores ~~crude ore~~.

5.(Currently Amended) The ~~use of the flotation composition as claimed in claim 1~~
~~and/or 2 in the flotation of~~ method of claim 1, wherein said sulfide ores are
nonferrous sulfide ores, the nonferrous sulfide ore being ores selected from the
group consisting of copper sulfide, nickel sulfide, zinc sulfide, lead sulfide, [[or]]
molybdenum sulfide, and mixtures thereof.

6.(Currently Amended) A process for preparing compounds of the formula



where

R¹, R² and R³ independently of one another are selected from the group consisting
of alkyl groups having 1 to 18 carbon atoms, alkenyl groups having 2 to 18 carbon

atoms, aryl groups having 6 to 10 carbon atoms, [[or]] alkylaryl groups having 7 to 10 carbon atoms, and mixtures thereof, and

R⁴ is hydrogen or selected from the group consisting of alkyl groups having 1 to 18 carbon atoms, alkenyl groups having 2 to 18 carbon atoms, aryl groups having 6 to 10 carbon atoms, [[or]] alkylaryl groups having 7 to 10 carbon atoms, and mixtures thereof, said process comprising which comprises

- a) reacting a dithiophosphate of the formula (R¹O)(R²O)PS₂Me, where Me is a cation, with an oxidizing agent in acidic solution and then
- b) reacting the resultant product with an amine of the formula HNR³R⁴.

7.(Original) The process as claimed in claim 6, wherein R¹, R² and R³ independently of one another are C₂-C₄-alkyl groups.

8.(Original) The process as claimed in claim 7, wherein R¹ and R² are a butyl group, R³ is an ethyl group and R⁴ is hydrogen.

9.(Original) The process as claimed in claim 8, wherein R¹ and R² are an isobutyl group.